

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Late running of trains on the section is mostly due to Alarm Chain Pulling, Clapet Valve Operation, Hose-Pipe Disconnection by miscreants in the section. However, Railways do take measures to check these occurrences by deploying ticket checking staff and RPF escort in the section to check such cases, so that inconveniences of passengers are mitigated.

(c) Platforms are provided at all railway stations. High level platforms are available at Kiul, Luckeesarai, Sheikhpura, Warisaliganj, Nawadah, Tilaiya, Manpur and Gaya stations. Other stations on the section have either low level or rail level platforms. Some difficulty may be faced by passengers entraining/detraining from low/rail level platforms.

(d) There are more than 8000 railway stations on Indian Railways, and it is not feasible to provide all stations with high level platforms. However, raising of platforms is a continuous process and is undertaken depending upon category of stations, growth in passengers, availability of funds and inter-se priorities.

Examinations /interviews conducted by RRB

1903. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question No. 2526 given on the 17th March, 2006 and state:

(a) whether some list of selected persons on the basis of examination/interview was made by the Railway Recruitment Board, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether 10530 vacancies in North Frontier Railway as on 31st January, 2006 exist and what is the planning to fill up these posts and when all posts are likely to be filled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Based on written examinations conducted by Railway Recruitment Board, Guwahati, total 445 candidates in the year 2004-05 & 3294 candidates in the year 2005-06 were selected for Group 'C' and 'D' categories of posts.

(b) There were 10530 vacancies in Northeast Frontier Railway as on 31.01.2006 which has come down to 9140 as on 31.10.2006. Arising and filling up of vacancies is a continuous process. Vacancies are filled up mainly through open market recruitment and promotions. All efforts are being taken to fill up the vacancies especially of safety categories.

Connecting Chennai with major cities of country

1904. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to connect Chennai and other major cities of the country with Delhi through high speed trains with the collaboration of Japan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the projects in this regard are likely to be executed; and
- (c) the other steps proposed to be taken by railways to introduce high speed trains for long distance travel in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Private partnership in freight corridor project

†1905. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of Commerce and Industry has raised serious technical points on private participation in the much coveted freight corridor project of Railways;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the said Ministry has stated that it would not be possible to grant approval to the said project without carrying out amendments in industrial regulation law;
- (c) if so, efforts being made for sorting out the said problem; and
- (d) whether Government wold provide its own resources for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.